

## **REMARKS**

The problem noted by the Examiner with respect to claim 56 has been corrected. Claims 39-71 herein cover at least the preferred embodiment shown in Fig. 4 and of course other equivalent embodiments.

The Section 112 rejection of claims 54 and 55 is avoided by their dependency on claim 50.

The Examiner rejected claims 50-52 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Heinzl. The Examiner rejected claims 39-41 and 48-49 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Heinzl. The Examiner rejected claims 42-44 and 53-55 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Heinzl in view of Uesugi. Claims 45-46 and 56-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Heinzl in view of D'heureuse.

Claim 39 distinguishes over Heinzl '928 at least by reciting in a structuring process generating at the surfactant regions having a layer thickness of less than .1  $\mu\text{m}$  ink-attracting and ink-repelling regions, and thereafter coating the surfactant with a layer which is one of ink-repelling and ink-attracting from a fountain solution. In Heinzl, a thin ice may be applied with a roller (column 4, line 26) and then water vapor is formed on the thin ice which is then cooled to ice. Thereafter the ice layer is structured at 48. To the contrary, in claim 39 the wetting aiding substance is structured before application of a fountain solution layer. This has the advantage that less energy is necessary for structuring the wetting aiding substance surfactant prior to application of the fountain solution layer. To the contrary, in Heinzl the structuring at 48 occurs to both the ice layer

and the tenside layer. This requires more energy. Claim 39 thus readily distinguishes.

Claim 39 also distinguishes by reciting that the wetting-aiding substance as a surfactant with hydrophilic molecule sections has a layer thickness of smaller than  $.1\mu\text{m}$ . No thickness is disclosed in Heinzl for the tenside.

Dependent claims 40-49 distinguish at least for the reasons claim 39 distinguishes and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

Claim 50 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 39. Dependent claims 51-57 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 50 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

New independent claim 58 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 39 by reciting covering the print carrier with a wetting-aiding surfactant layer and then structuring this surfactant layer before applying the fountain solution layer. This uses less energy for the structuring and thus distinguishes as noted above with respect to claim 39. Dependent claim 59 distinguishes at least by reciting the less than  $.1\mu\text{m}$  thickness not disclosed by Heinzl.

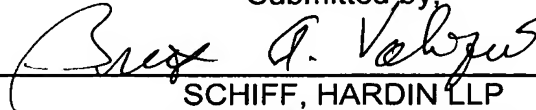
Independent claim 60 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 58. Dependent claim 61 distinguishes by reciting a thickness less than  $.1\mu\text{m}$  – not suggested by Heinzl for his tenside.

Dependent claims 62-71 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 60 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

As to the secondary references Uesugi or D'heureuse cited by the Examiner, these do not cure the defects of Heinzl and therefore the claims are allowable even if these secondary references are combined with Heinzl.

Allowance of the case is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,



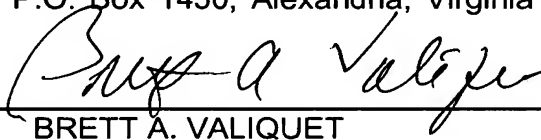
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